Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Newsletter

www.LASD.org

Volume 3 Issue 1– January 2018

### Lynwood Neighborhood Block Watch Captain's Annual Holiday Dinner

On November 16, 2017, the Lynwood Block Watch Captains hosted their Annual Holiday Dinner. The Annual Dinner is a well-deserved event, held to thank the Block Watch Captains for their dedication and commitment to their neighborhoods.

The Lynwood Block Watch is an organization that has been around for over 30 years, and is driven by an active group of Lynwood residents, which includes a group of more than 50 Block Watch Captains. The Block Watch Captains are the eyes and ears of the community who report suspicious activities for their neighborhoods. Based on a partnership between the city of Lynwood and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Century Station, the city's active Neighborhood Block Watch Organization embraces the philosophy of community policing, identifying, reducing, eliminating and preventing behaviors/crimes that impact the community's safety and order.

During the dinner, Captain Kerry A. Carter, along with the Lynwood City COPS Team, were able to interact with many of the Watch Block Captains. All in attendance enjoyed great food, music, entertainment and prizes. Lynwood Block Watch Vice-President, Yolanda Gonzalez, presented Captain Kerry A. Carter and the Lynwood COPS Team with a certificate of appreciation for their meritorious service, participation, and support throughout the year.

The importance of relationships with the community cannot be underestimated. Through this alliance, Lynwood residents become an invested partner in the effort to keep their neighborhoods safe and secure. Effective collaborating promotes team building, a sense of ownership, enthusiasm, and mutual respect between Century Station deputies and the citizens they serve.



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#### Links

**Sheriff's Youth Foundation** 

Crimestoppers

www.lacrimestoppers.org

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ LosAngelesCountySheriffsDepar

**Twitter** 

https://twitter.com/LASDHO

#### **Lakewood Station**

## Kids in Need Get to 'Shop with a Cop'

There were a lot of smiles, laughs, and good cheer on December 6, 2017 as Lakewood Station personnel helped brighten the holidays for 35 children from the Lakewood area. These special children were selected through the annual "Shop with a Cop" program, which focuses its efforts on supporting families who are currently facing financial or other circumstantial hardships.

The annual "Shop with a Cop," program works on helping children in-need, while also helping to build good community-public safety relations in communities served by the Lakewood Sheriff's Station. Children selected by the program were identified by Lakewood Station's clergy, local schools, deputies, and Lakewood's Project Shepherd program.

The "Shop with a Cop" event began with dinner donated by Lakewood Center's Stonefire Grill, followed by a short excursion to Lakewood Mall's Target in light flashing patrol cars. The children were treated by Target, Stonefire Grill and Lakewood Center to free holiday shopping as deputies escorted the children throughout the store to help them pick out their perfect gifts. The night ended successfully as farewells were shared and bonds were strengthened which was exhibited through the appreciation and numerous compliments received by the Sheriff's Department from its residents.







#### **Lancaster Station**

## **Reaching Out to the Community**

Communication is key to any successful relationship. In a time when law enforcement and community relationships are unstable; clear, honest, and transparent communication has never been more important. But how do you reach all the segments of a community? How do you build trust? Lancaster Sheriff's Station and its personnel have been diligently working to meet this goal.

Lancaster Station started by updating their community outreach programs. They began to meet and work with organizations who provide services to the mentally ill, homeless, victims of domestic violence, victims of sex crimes, and the youth. Partnering with local non-profit organizations and government agencies, Lancaster Station's personnel was able to gain valuable insight into the complexity of the issues that surround each of these populations. We were able to provide a more compassionate and educated response to many of the law enforcement issues that are often misunderstood within the communities. For example, deputies in the field are now trained in how to respond to persons who are mentally ill. Armed with more tools, information, and education, they are able to de-escalate volatile situations more effectively. Deputies also provide resource information to community members on domestic violence, homeless service providers, mental health services, and youth programs. This allowed the station to provide useful information to the community, while easing the burden on station resources.

While working with these groups, station personnel recognized the need to also reach out to our minority and "access needs" communities. One of the needs discovered included distributing crime prevention literature in both English and Spanish to members of the community. The Department was able to add bilingual staff to the community relations team. This addition ensures personnel are available at every Lancaster Station event to speak in both English and Spanish. One of these events, Coffee with a Deputy, is hosted in both languages. It has provided opportunities for deputies to interact with community members in a non-threatening and neutral environment. The events, which are hosted by local businesses, offer community members the ability to meet with station personnel on a regular basis. Residents can ask questions and provide insight into the needs of the community. This includes the disabled and hearing impaired.

Another tool the station has utilized is social media. It has become one of the most effective means of communication for law enforcement agencies throughout our nation. Lancaster Sheriff's Station has not only been a source of information, but a way to humanize the deputies who work within the community. A team of both sworn and professional staff are able to showcase the deputies in a way that could never have been done before.

We invite you to come out to any of our events and get to know our personnel. If you have a crime prevention need, please contact our community relations staff: Deputy Christian Scott, Deputy Yeni Deciga, Law Enforcement Technician Ali Villalobos, or Sergeant Theresa Dawson at (661) 948- 8466.



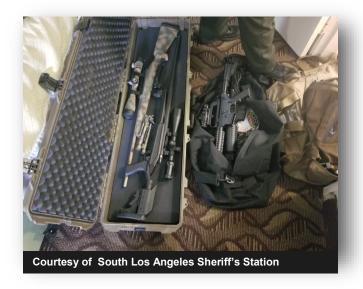


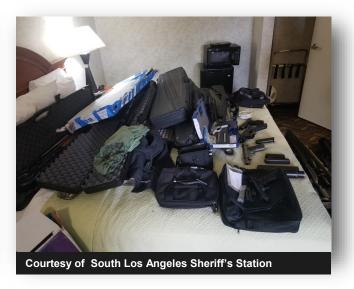


### **South Los Angeles Station**

## The City of Lawndale: If You See Something, Say Something

The City of Lawndale and the Lawndale Service Center, of the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station, have embarked on a campaign of educating the public to call 911 when they witness suspicious activity. On October 30, 2017 their efforts were rewarded when a local hotel manager called the South Los Angeles Station and reported seeing a large cache of weapons in an occupied room of the hotel.





A hotel maintenance worker saw the weapons through the window and partially open curtains. He relayed his sightings to the hotel manager, who called 911. Deputies and detectives responded and arrested those who were involved. With a warrant, the deputies recovered the weapons and a significant amount of drugs. The weapons included shotguns, rifles, AK-47 and AR-15 assault rifles, pistols, loaded magazines, and boxed ammunition. Through an extensive follow-up investigation, additional suspects were identified and arrested.

This event signifies the importance of community awareness and involvement. By taking ownership of their own neighborhoods and reporting what they see, citizens can play a significant role in reducing crime and violence.



# Palmdale Station Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest

Palmdale Sheriff's Station held an essay contest honoring Hispanic Heritage Month in September.

The students from Los Amigos School were recognized for their talents by Sheriff Jim McDonnell and several government dignitaries.

78 students had the experience of writing about a person who has impacted their life and made history in the Hispanic Culture.

In partnership with the Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the top three students were awarded scholarships for their achievement.



## City Council Academy

The City Council Academy consists of a three-day session where city staff and elected officials will be introduced to various aspects of the Department. Training includes both interactive classroom presentations, as well as "hands on" practical application designed to give a firsthand view of the Sheriff's Department's operations and the job duties of deputies.

Training at the Sheriff's Department includes learning and experiencing:

- SWAT Operations
- Patrol/Traffic Operations
- Risk Management

- Internal Investigations
- Emergency Operations
- Law Enforcement Scenario
   Role Playing
- Tours of the Hall of Justice, Departments Operations Center, and Twin Towers Correctional Facility

There are no physical requirements needed for the City Council Academy. For more information please contact Sgt. Elsa Avila, Contract Law Enforcement Bureau, at (213) 229-1647 or send an email to <a href="mailto:eavila@lasd.org">eavila@lasd.org</a>.

### **Cerritos Station**

## Whitney Live Program Discusses Law Enforcement Issues

The city of Cerritos' children attend schools within the ABC Unified School District. Whitney High School is one of the four district high schools. The school has been recognized as California's top high school and has also received national recognition as a top ten high school. The students who attend Whitney are selected from throughout the district based on their demonstrated high achievements.

Whitney's mission is to prepare academically proficient students for entrance to and success at their best-match university. The school emphasizes academics and appropriate co-curricular experiences that develop socially and academically successful students.

Each school day, Whitney produces a 15 minute program that is broadcast to the school's students and faculty, and is also available via live stream. The purpose of the show is to provide current events and topical information to students and staff.

Whitney students and staff have partnered with Cerritos Sheriff's Station for a second year on an innovative program designed to foster communication between students and the deputies who serve their communities. The goal is to expose students and deputies to one another's point of view and strengthen the bond between the Department and the community.

The show discusses socially relevant and sometimes controversial law enforcement related current event topics. Both groups have shown tolerance and acceptance to each other's perspective. The show has also stimulated conversation on campus amongst students and staff, relative to law enforcement related topics appearing in the news.



Many students have stated they feel more comfortable approaching law enforcement.

Similar positive feedback has been expressed by the deputies who participate in the show.

These deputies have acknowledged they have also gained an increased understanding about the feelings the students have towards law enforcement.

Both sides look forward to continuing their partnerships moving forward with the show.

# **Crescenta Valley Station Community Holiday Events**

Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station and the city of La Canada-Flintridge take the holidays very seriously. The holiday season starts early every year with the La Canada Community Center's annual Turkey Trot. This year's event kicked-off early Thanksgiving morning. Over 1500 people of all ages gathered at Memorial Park to sign up, stretch, and prepare for the 5K adult race/walk followed by a kiddie race. During the race, CV deputies, volunteers, law enforcement technicians, and reserve deputies from the station and all around the county monitored street intersections to ensure the participants' safety. Race participants brought donations of canned and dried food goods, which the Crescenta Valley Station distributed during it's annual toy and food drive.

The annual toy and food drive was held early in December. Deputies and volunteers worked closely with Los Angeles County Parks personnel to hand out toys and food to approximately 175 families in need.

La Canada-Flintridge's next big event was the Festival of Lights. This event was held at Memorial Park and was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Santa and Mrs. Clause arrived at the park in an antique car, escorted by a patrol car and several Los Angeles County Fire trucks. Over 100 children playing in 50 tons of snow, that was specially delivered earlier that day, stopped and watched with delight as the vehicles approached. As the procession drew near, the patrol car's red and blue lights flashing and sirens yelping, one could hear Santa calling out "Ho, Ho, ho!"

We are grateful for the participation of our dedicated station volunteers and deputies who ensured the holiday events proceeded safely.



# City of Cerritos Community Safety Division



CITY OF CERRITOS - COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION HOMEOWNER BURGLARY ABATEMENT PROJECT

Cerritos Sheriff's Station/ Cerritos Community Safety Center 18135 S. Bioomfield Avenue Cerritos, California 90703 (562) 916-1266

Visit crimemapping.com or safercerritos.com for easy access to current neighborhood crime reports, statistics, and maps.

TOGETHER WE CAN
HARDEN THE TARGET



### **DEAR COMMUNITY PARTNER**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department needs your help to reduce residential burglaries occurring in the region.

When you go to work, so do the burglars. There is little that a burglar loves more than an easily accessible unoccupied home.

The strategy for success is simple, make your home look and sound occupied. Homes that appear to be unoccupied are welcome targets of opportunity.

With a little effort, you can make your beloved home less appealing to criminals. Let's work together to Harden the Target and keep criminals at bay.

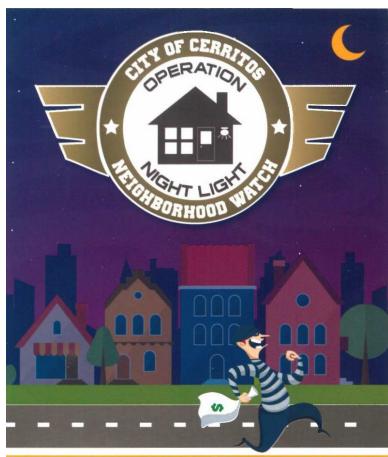
#### AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF A RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

- Join Neighborhood Watch.
- Participate in Operation Night Light.
- Lock your doors and windows when away.
- Maintain landscape and do not allow shrubbery to obscure doors and windows.
- □ Remove mail/papers/pamphlets from street view.
- □ Do not post travel photos on social media when you are out of town.
- Leave a radio playing (daytime) and lights on (nighttime).
- Consider leaving an operable car parked in your driveway to feign occupancy.
- □ Post "alarm" and "beware of dog" signs.
- Lock your backyard gate.

□ Reinforce front door with "kick" resistant locks, floor bolts and lengthy patio screws.

- Install and use alarm/camera system.
- □ Install doorbell with Internet camera connection.
- □ Install "shatter resistant" security film on your first floor glass windows and patio door.
- □ Purchase a safe that is UL rated "residential security container" or higher.

# City of Cerritos Community Safety Division



CITY OF CERRITOS - COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

OPERATION NIGHT LIGHT

#### JIM MCDONNELL, SHERIFF

Cerritos Sheriff's Station/ Cerritos Community Safety Center 18135 S. Bloomfield Avenue Cerritos, California 90703 (562) 916-1266

Visit crimemapping.com or safercerritos.com for easy access to current neighborhood crime reports, statistics, and maps.

UNLIT HOMES ATTRACT UNWELCOME ATTENTION!



### **DEAR COMMUNITY PARTNER:**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is seeking your help to reduce nighttime residential and vehicle burglaries within this region.

Criminals are adaptive creatures. Enhanced daytime patrols, security cameras, and automatic license plate reading technologies have caused some would-be burglars to switch their illicit activities to nighttime.

Thieves appear to be surveilling residential neighborhoods at sunset and beyond looking for homes that appear to be unoccupied. Homes that have no exterior or interior lights on draw the unwanted attention of would-be burglars.

OPERATION NIGHT LIGHT is a new crime abatement strategy designed to dissuade would-be criminals during the hours of darkness.

Anyone can participate in OPERATION NIGHT LIGHT by simply turning on your porch light each day from dusk until dawn. Lights equipped with a photocell do this automatically.

A lit porch light will brighten your property and "illuminate" the fact that residents on your street are part of an active Neighborhood Watch program.

OPERATION NIGHT LIGHT gives criminals who operate under the cover of darkness what they don't want ... well-lit areas and exposure.

**KEEP'EM ON TO KEEP'EM OUT!** 

## **LASD Recruitment Efforts**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Recruitment Unit has experienced a very busy 2017. The year started with the first 3-in-1 test in Bakersfield, California. The new testing model gave applicants the opportunity to complete the first three steps in the Deputy Sheriff Trainee application process in one day: The written exam, physical ability test, and oral interview. The new testing model was so successful it was utilized for several additional testing events. On April 8th, 2017, the first "Accelerated Testing Opportunity" was held at STARS Center in Whittier, California. Over 650 motivated men and women showed up to this event, a record in recent history. The success of the "accelerated" testing model caused the Sheriff's Department to now combine the written and physical ability tests every time an examination is held for the position of Deputy Sheriff Trainee, which are currently offered four times per month.

Universities and colleges have been a target rich environment for the Recruitment Unit. A total of 304 students tested at these events. Some of the larger testing events included Bakersfield Community College, Mt. San Antonio College, and East Los Angeles College.

A big factor behind the success of all of our testing events is due to our expanding social media presence. The Recruitment Unit utilizes platforms such as Facebook, Facebook Live, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube to connect with followers on a 24/7 basis. The Recruitment Unit is able to immediately answer questions from potential applicants to ease their minds and educate them on the hiring process.

The Recruitment Unit has also expanded its applicant search to include events nationwide. Recruiters were able to form invaluable relationships with colleges and military bases, which has enabled the ability to digitally recruit prospective appli-

cants.

2018 looks to be a promising year for the Recruitment Unit. Increasing social media outreach, expanding the applicant pool nationwide, and hosting continued accelerated testing opportunities, will help to recruit the future Deputy Sheriffs of Los Angeles County. The Sheriff's Depart-

ment is always looking for qualified and motivated personnel. If you, or someone you know, is interested in a career in law enforcement, please apply at LASDcareers.org, call us at 1-800-A-Deputy, or contact the Recruitment Unit on social media @joinLASD.



#### **Contact Us**

Give us a call or email for more information about our services.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

## Contract Law Enforcement Bureau

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